From October 2021
(Volume 120)

Photo History

Cover Picture

November... 2021

A good time to put my thoughts down. Yesterday night Larnie stayed with us again. We find it so special when, out of the blue, our grand-daughter just phones to say "can I come round" . We have a meal together (where Lynn makes sure the menu 'has Larnie approval') and we then chat .

She asked a leading question." Do we regret having worked so hard during our life" ...adding that it was great to be able to talk freely with people of our generation for advice. Not the simple question that it appears.

Circumstances were so totally different then. Our parents worked hard from sheer necessity and I guess, the work ethic was instilled at that development point for both of us. However the question remains…"would we do it differently now.?" Hindsight is not a viewpoint that is realistic so one has to weigh up the pros and the cons.

Yes, we could have certainly worked less hard….. yes, we could have earnt more in higher paying jobs,…..yes , we could have travelled more when we were young...however, this is easy to say now, looking back. However, these weren't options then. We had obligations from a very early age...married at 20 with all the financial and social obligations that encompassed so we were 'trapped' Too strong a word? Possibly: but more importantly our ethics and morals ensured we continued on a pre-ordained path and looking back at what we have achieved gives me the answer to Larnies question.

I say ''me' because I don't think it fair to speak for Lynn in these matters. I am sure that it is age thing that one starts to take stock of one's past life and personally love the fact that the immediate family are all so close to us and we are a pivotal part here. The extended family in Israel, Germany etc are also so close even where it is friendship rather than 'blood ties' that unites us.

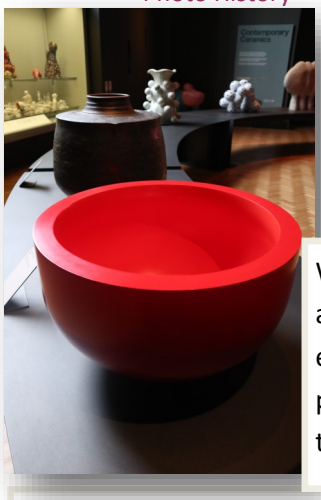
Lynn and I have held on to our dear friends going back to childhood, school and later, and what is so satisfying is the vast numbers of 'new' friends we have made. I say friends because they are truly friends and valued . Add to this the vast number of acquaintances I have made from walking with the 'lads' and also from swimming where I now meet with a small crowd of guys once a month for a coffee and chat at Crews Hill garden centre cafe. Even a new social group has been added where more swimmers meet locally. We see the same faces when we are volunteering, be it tree-planting, local water regeneration projects, badger re-introduction at Forty Hall etc. These are people we would not normally meet and they give a totally new dimension to our lives.

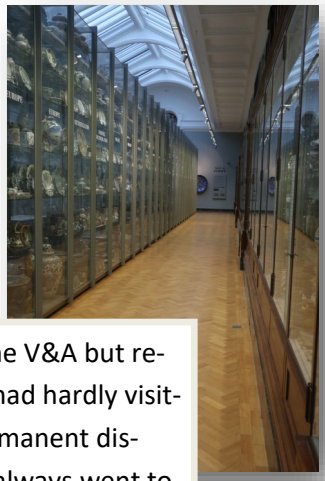
We have travelled extensively enjoying some truly great adventures because neither of us enjoy the beach-style holiday and we prefer to plan our travels and in doing so have seen the other side of many far-away locations. These books are a testament to that.

Larnie, we are now balancing our lives. As I hope I have explained here, we couldn't do these things earlier so we are doing them now. Still a very busy schedule but based on fulfilment rather than work. This is that ***'work, life balance'*** I spoke to you about. Lynn's traumatic health experience crystallised the sanctity of life for me and we determined to maximise our remaining years. Yes, we are both fortunate that we are now in good health and able to undertake these things. All around us we see friends with deteriorating health so we are very aware of the 'tightrope we are balancing on. This has encouraged our keep-fit, keep healthy daily regime...and so far it is working.

A long answer to a short question but as I hope I managed to show...it was not a simple question.

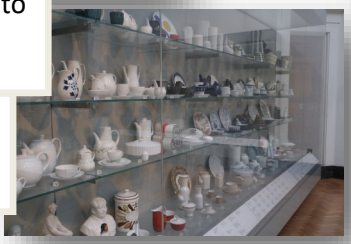
Photo History

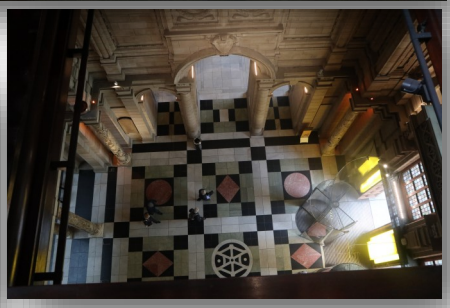


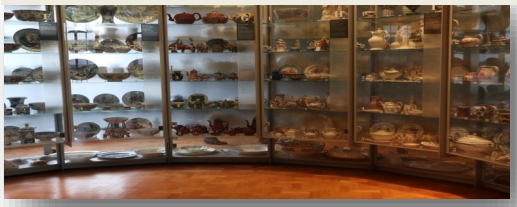


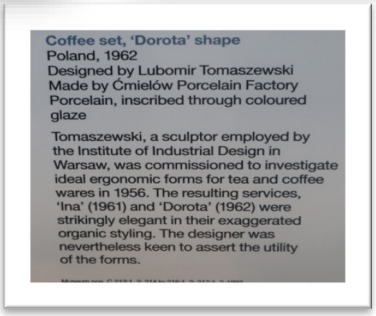
We love the V&A but realised we had hardly visited the permanent displays and always went to the special exhibitions

...so we determined to make 'pilgrimages' to this wonderful temple and here are a few shots









Coffee set, 'Dorota' shape
Poland, 1962
Designed by Lubomir Tomaszewski
Made by Ćmielów Porcelain Factory
Porcelain, inscribed through coloured glaze

Tomaszewski, a sculptor employed by the Institute of Industrial Design in Warsaw, was commissioned to investigate ideal ergonomic forms for tea and coffee wares in 1956. The resulting services, 'Ina' (1961) and 'Dorota' (1962) were strikingly elegant in their exaggerated organic styling. The designer was nevertheless keen to assert the utility of the forms.

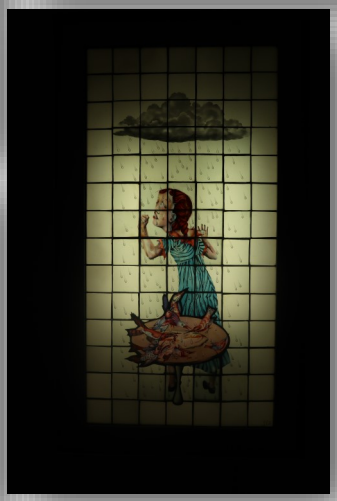


Photo History

A constant discussion with friends is their feeling that The Summer Exhibition is " a load of rubbish".

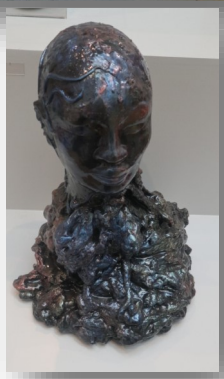
I always counter with the reply that I personally agree that there is a lot of controversial work but there is also so much original work that I really enjoy

I do hope some of the following picture prove my point

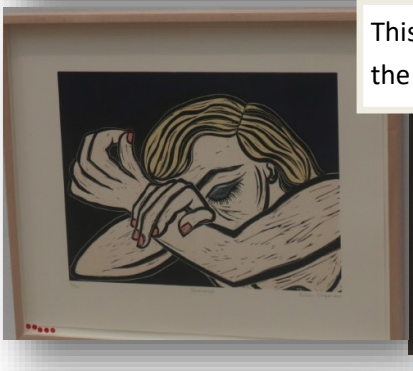
Note: The 'admirer' is part of the art work

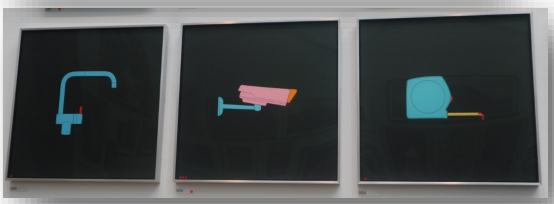
The variety is what makes it so fascinating...how can anyone say “it’s all rubbish” ??

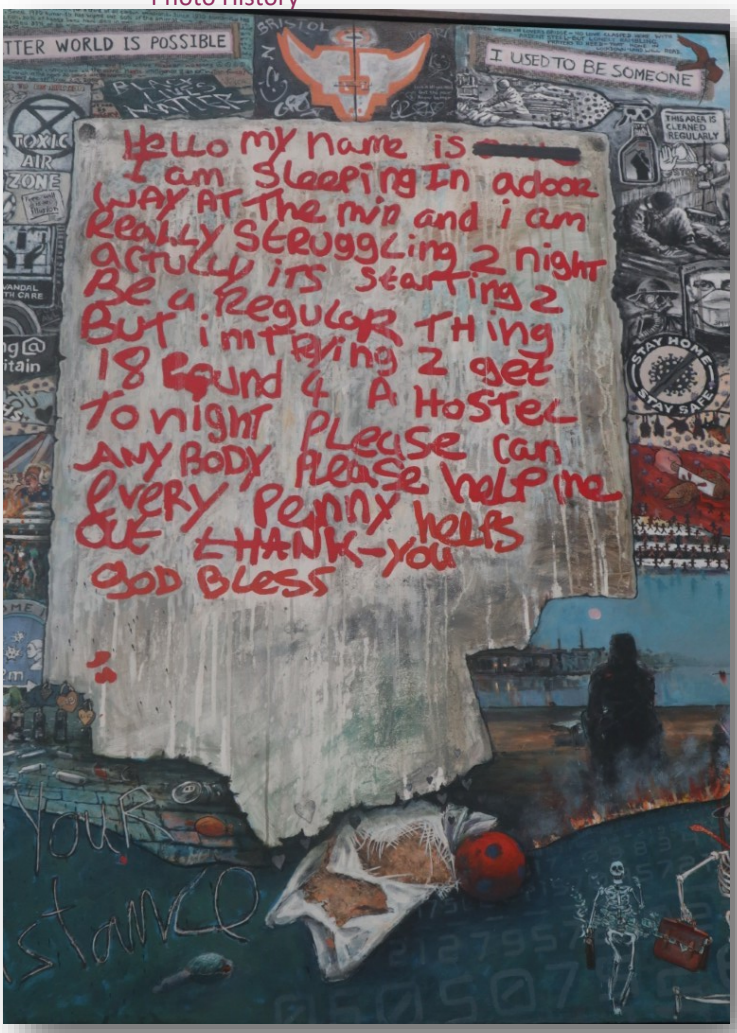
I have deliberately mixed up styles etc



This chair was an animated light box and the chair-lift slowly moved towards you

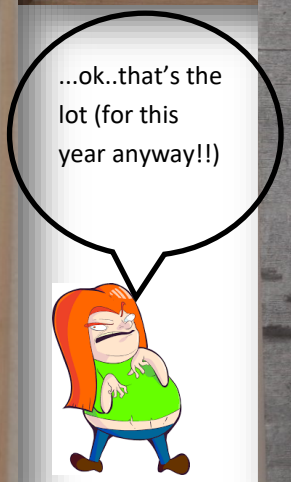


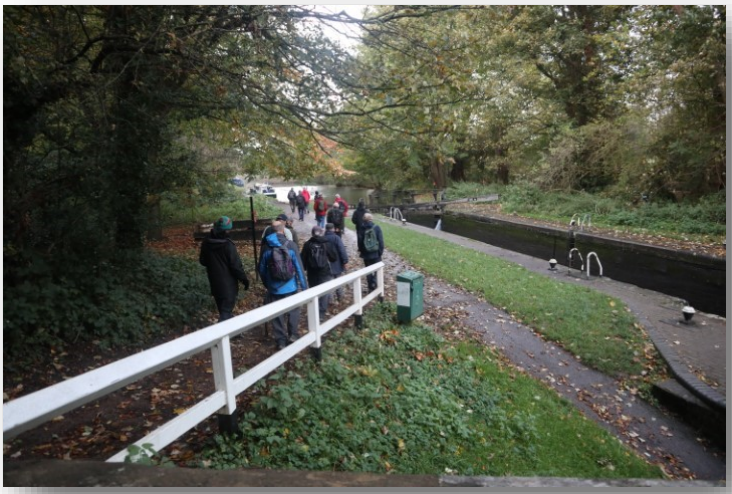



TTER WORLD IS POSSIBLE
I USED TO BE SOMEONE
THIS AREA IS CLEANED REGULARLY
TOXIC AIR ZONE
STAY HOME STAY SAFE
Hello my name is [redacted]
I am sleeping in a door
way at the min and i am
really struggling 2 night
actully its starting 2
be a regular thing
But im trying 2 get
18 pound 4 a hostel
tonight please can
any body please help me
every penny helps
out thank-you
god bless
Your stance

BSA

...just a few more honestly...please humour me. I don't get out much!!


...ok..that's the lot (for this year anyway!!)



The Cassiobury Gentle-man's walk (about 16 managed to make it)

The final hurdle...pub lunch for all

At Renee's for lunch with Brian & Julie

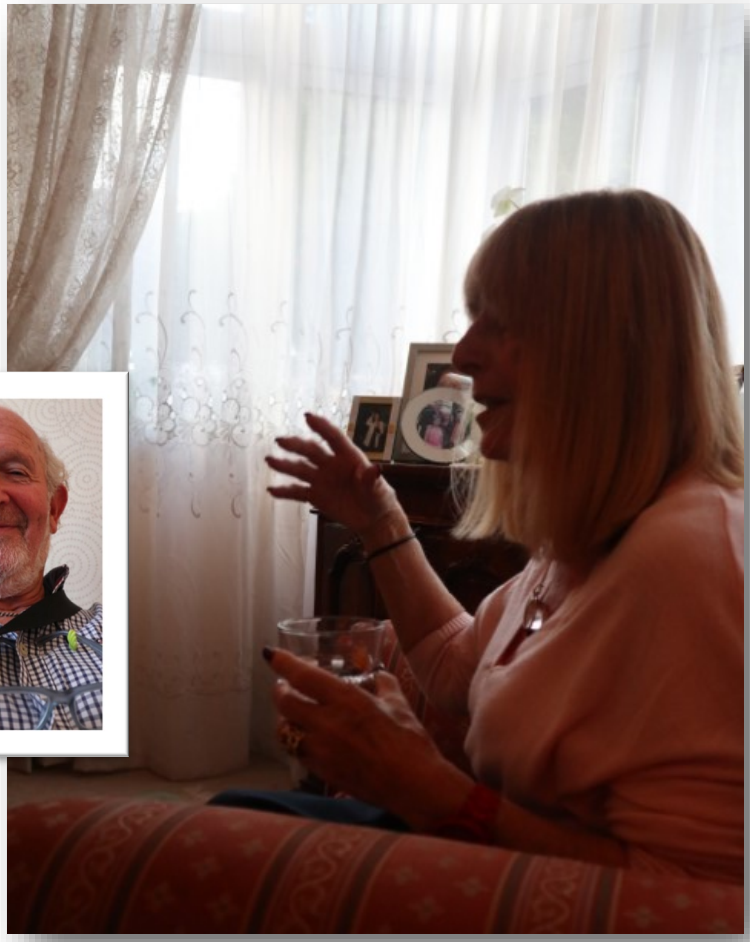
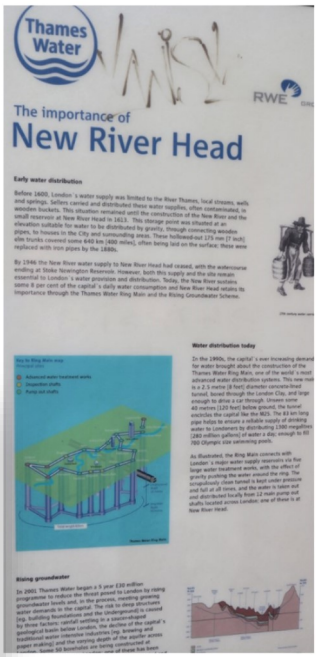
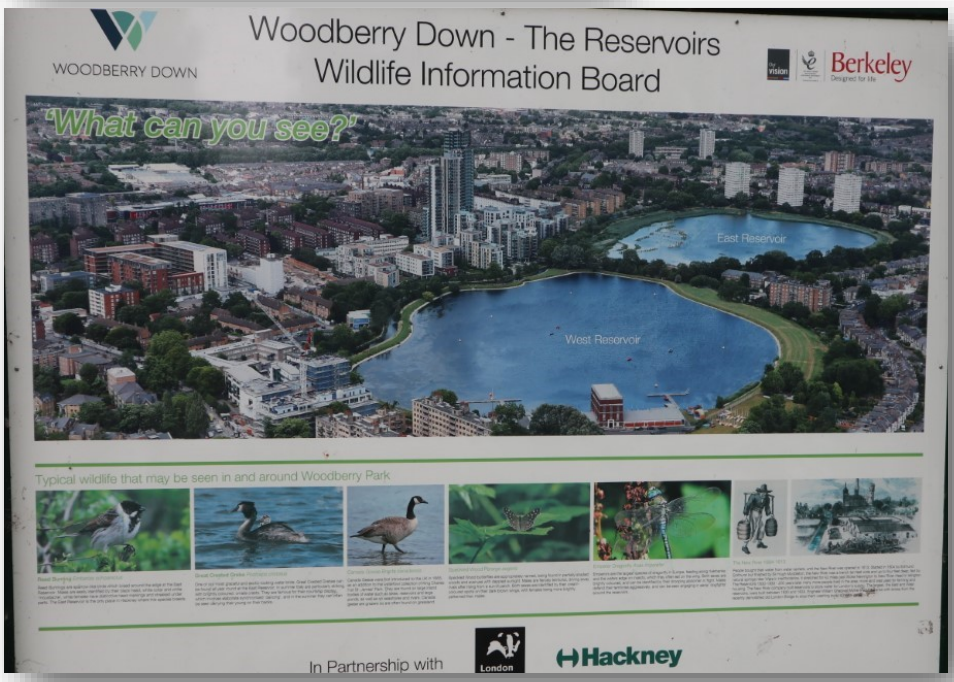


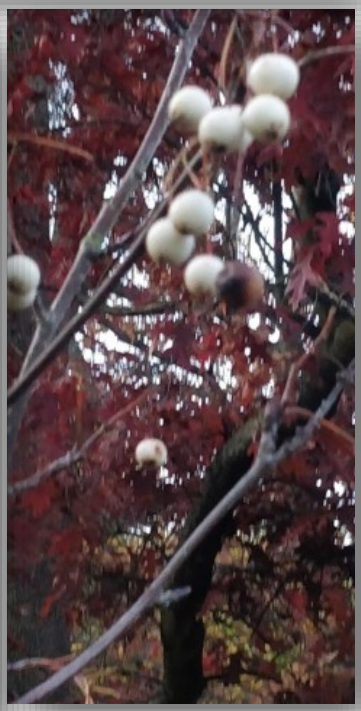
Photo History

Cyril, Gerald and myself followed the New River from its head near The Angel via 'a coffee' and then Woodberry Downs ending at Finsbury Park





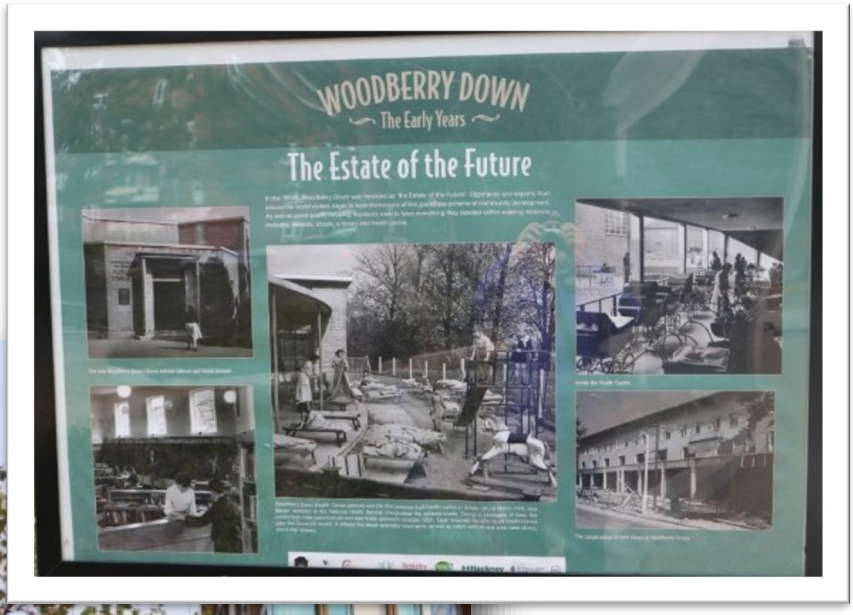
Tammy treated us to A Ghost Bus ride around Central London which was

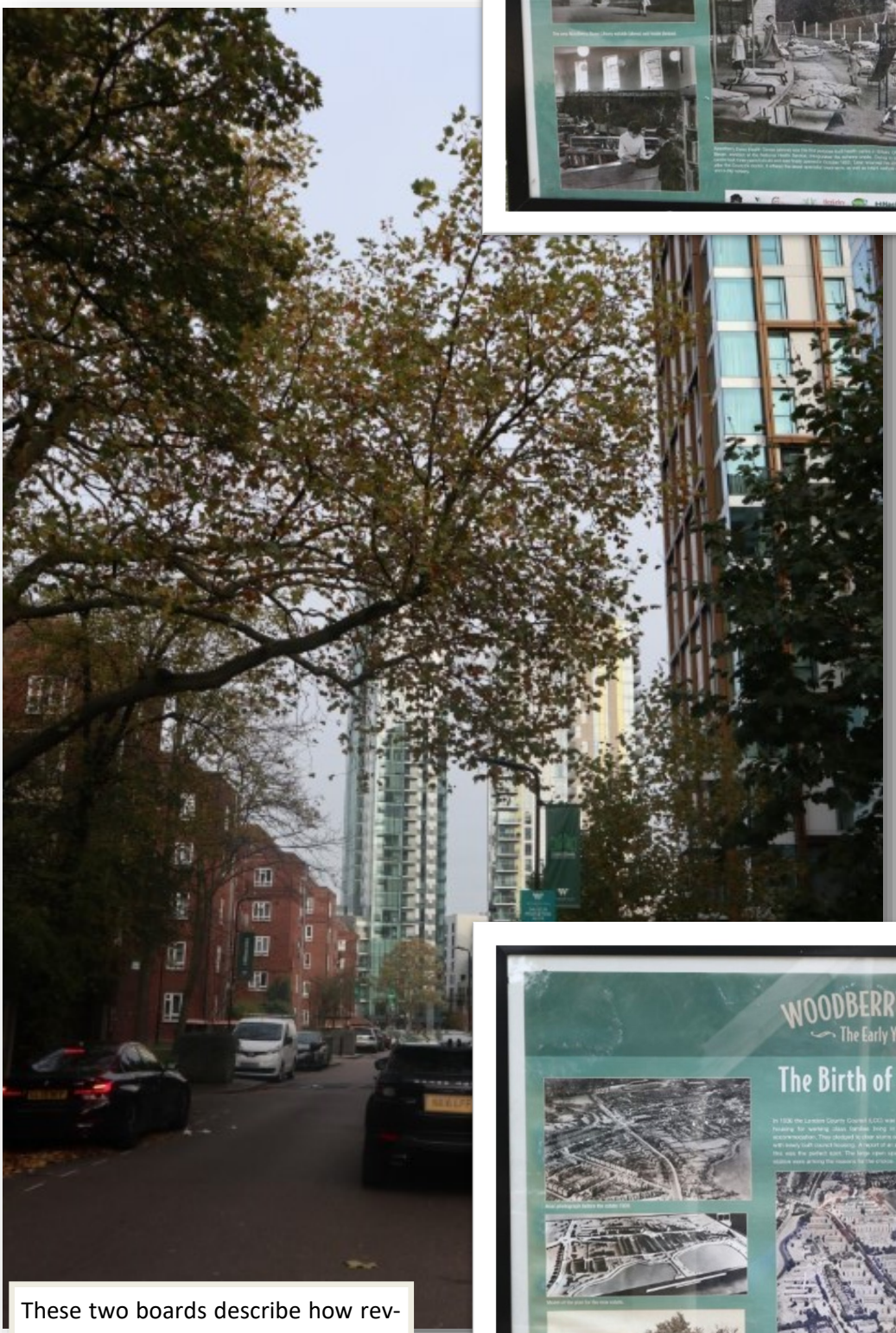


We walked around the beautiful arboretum at The West Lodge Park Hotel before enjoying afternoon tea there

Tammy and Dan and Tammy and Lesley

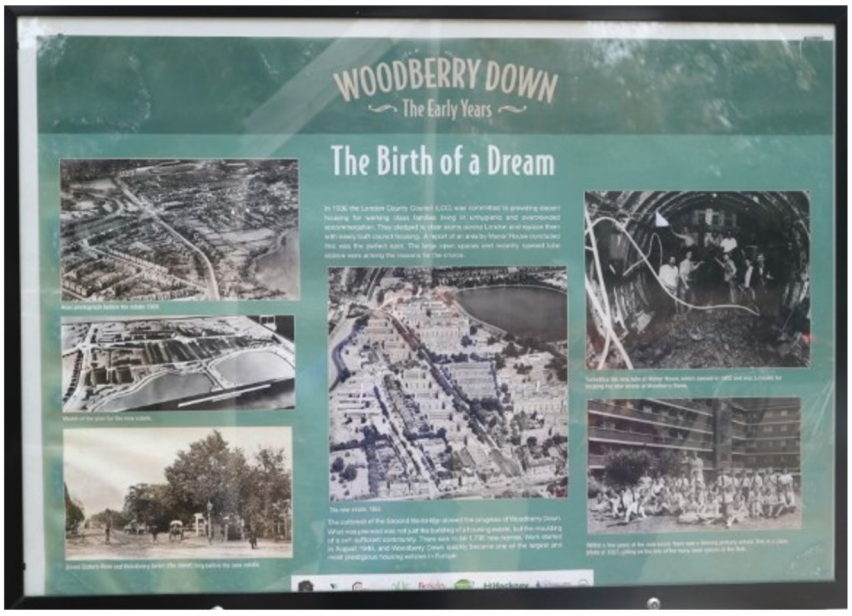
Lynn and I echoed the walk I had done with Gerald and Cyril (leaving out the very muddy end). The Woodberry Downs Estate has been totally revamped





The centre shot shows the original estate on the left and these massive towers on the right.

A major contrast. The landscaping with recreational use of the two reservoirs make it an exciting new place to live (probably very expensive)



These two boards describe how revolutionary the original development was and undoubtably also caused a lot of upheaval and unrest

ARCHIVE PHOTOS FROM MANOR HOUSE STATION

September 1932 when the tram shelters were decorated to celebrate the opening of Manor House station. It said that trams stopped running in 1939 being replaced by electric trolleybuses(However, Lynn and I remember trams much later than this here)

This is the 1933 station layout. The ticket/information booth was known as a passimeter. . The machines issued tickets for common destinations

These tram shelters were located outside the Manor House Pub (named after the manor house originally located in the area

This shows the construction of Manor House Station in 1930. The tram infrastructure including the directional signs in the middle of the road were upgraded at this time

Our walks must always include a ‘food break’ and we enjoyed freshly grilled kebabs from a Turkish restaurant in the square at Newington Green

This lovely pub fascia now is actually a burger bar..

Photo History

Day One

Thames 21, a charity sponsored by Thames Water, in conjunction with Enfield Council has many initiative running and Lynn and I have joined many of them. The Forty Hall ancient woodland will have beaver rehoused and a small group of volunteers removed contaminated wooden posts and wire fences ready to b collected in order for beaver-proof surrounds to be installed. This is quite a long-term project and was hard work but great fun

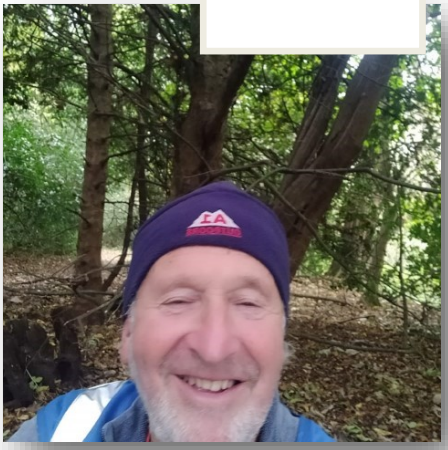
Meeting point and distribution of gloves and boots

Original fencing to be removed

A well-earned lunch break in the woods

Photo History

SECOND DAY



Getting equipped at the meeting point

Tobs with Lynn, Wendy and Alisson ..ready for work

On the path to the ancient woodlands

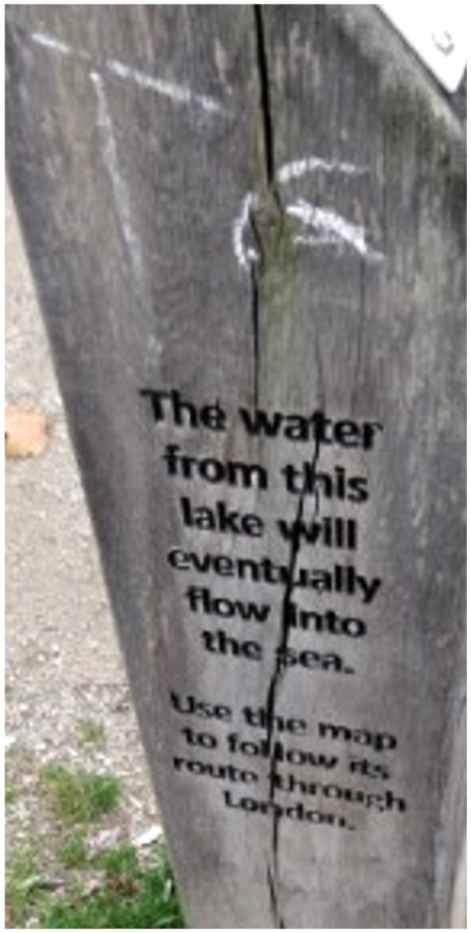
Work detail...

Lynn and Alyson sawing with all their energy

The well-earned lunch break

Putting on heavy-duty waders and long protective gloves

Clearing the main header pond which filters the brook from pollutants before it enters Pimm's Brook and then the River Lea. It had become overgrown with reeds etc



Clearing the reeds etc

..some folks like getting really dirty

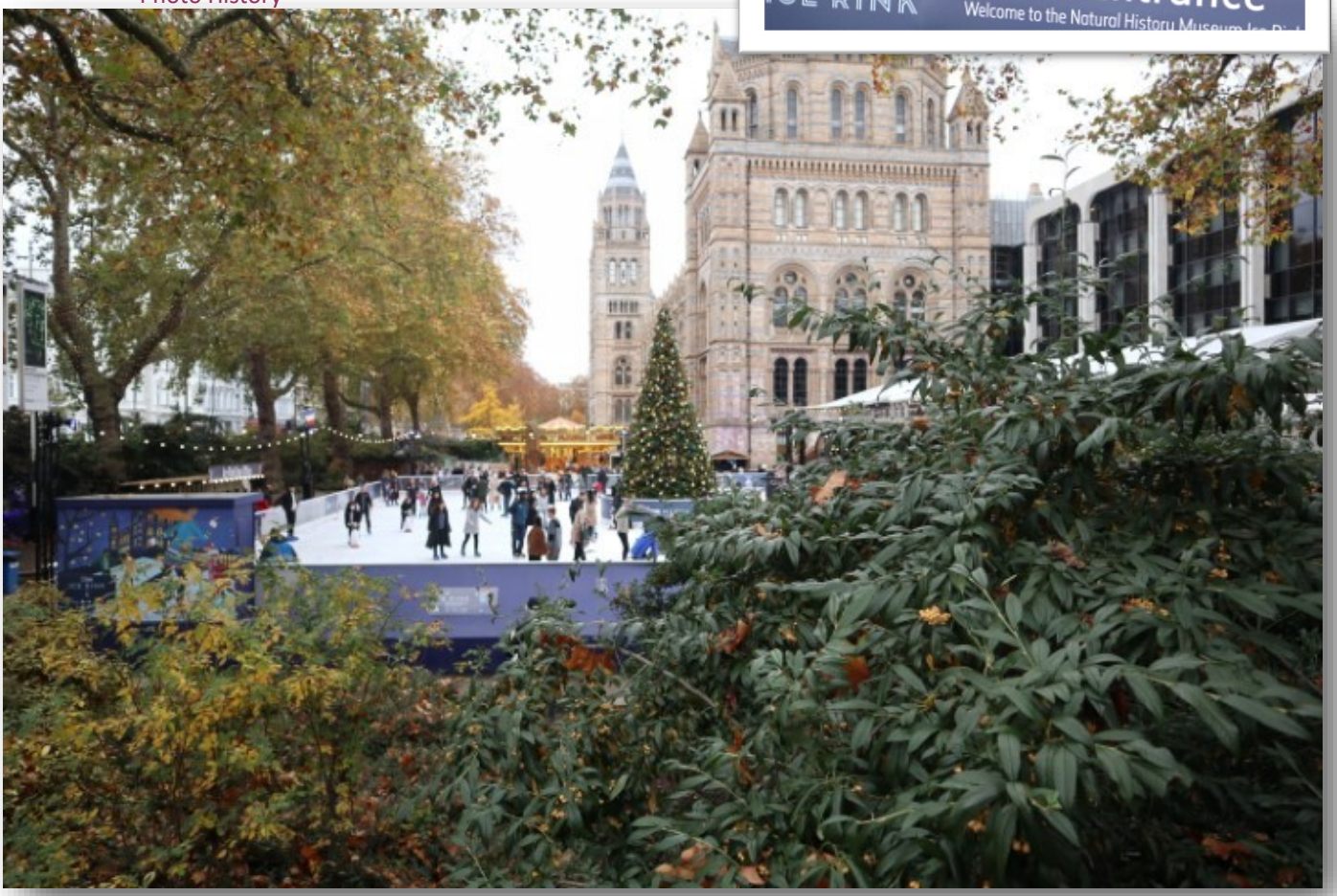
Lynn, just before she was 'rescued' from the mud

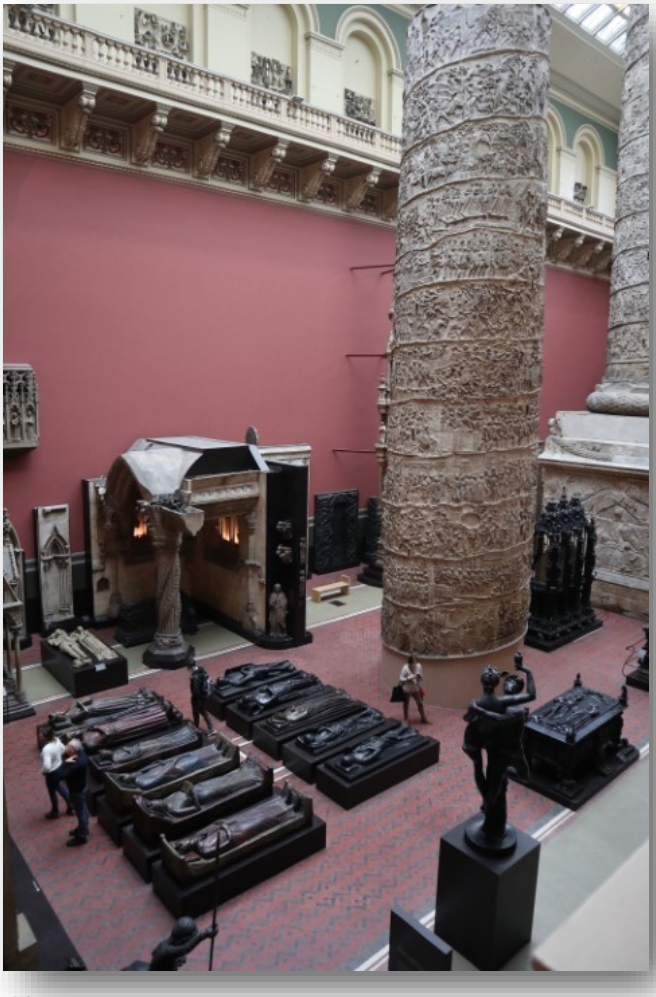
This is only part of the pile that Lynn cleared

These are the new channels we cleared

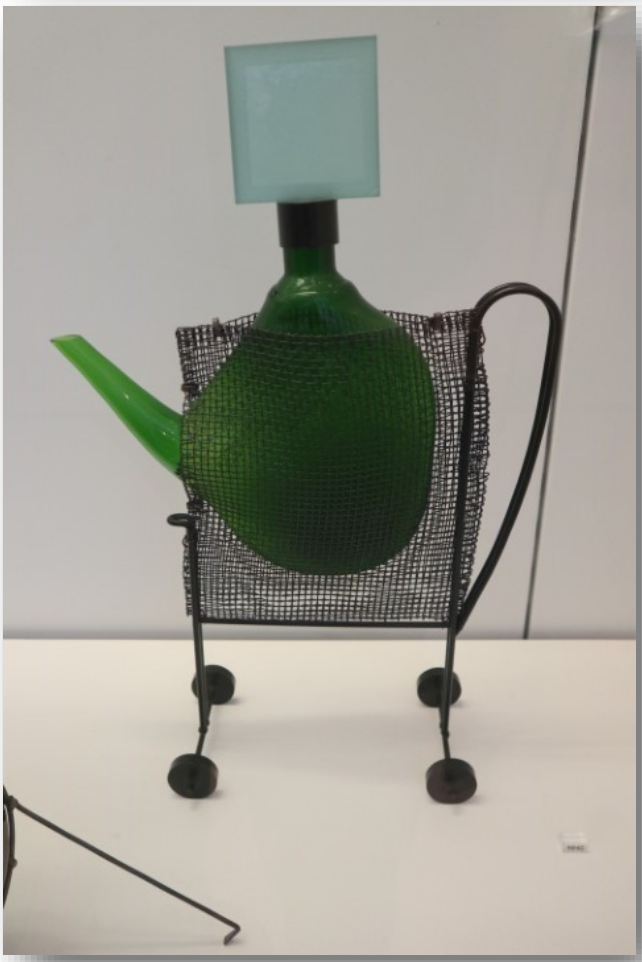
TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE
N°19
COVID
EAU DE VIRUS

Photo History

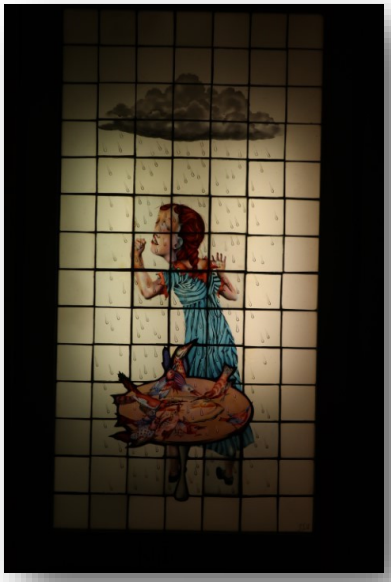


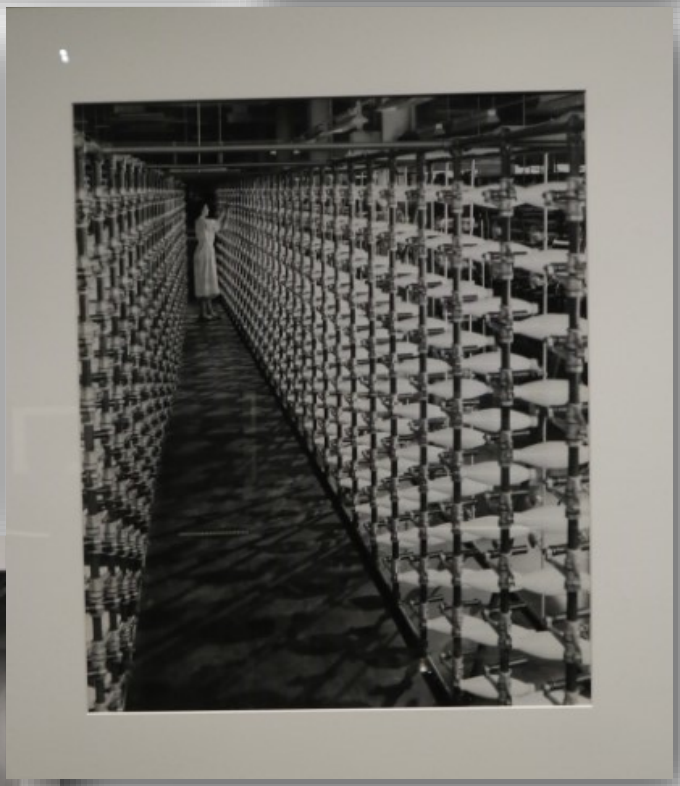


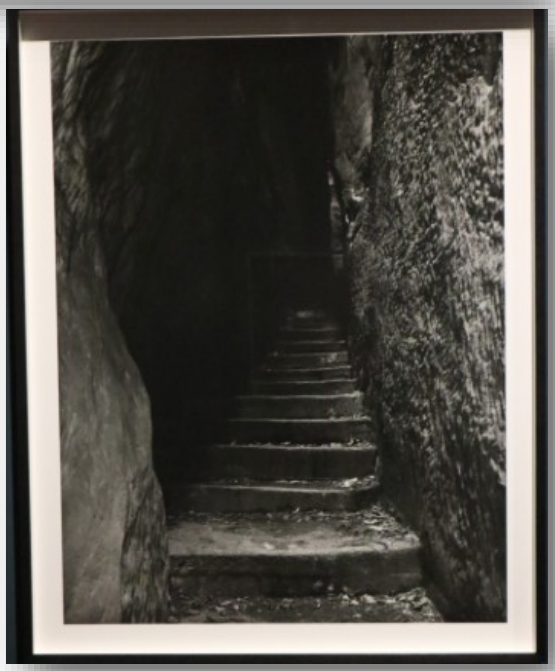
...seen at the V&A



These are some of the wonderful exhibits/photos etc that caught my eye







Lynn and I love street food and at The elephant and Castle we enjoyed Mercato Metropolitano with some great food and fabulous characters

Mercato Metropolitano...It was quiet after the lunchtime rush

Real Jerk
TO THE BEACH

Probably the logo said it all

The continuation of The Enfield Chase Tree Planting Programme. This one is at Rectory Road Farm (near Chase Farm Hospital) Over 50 volunteers turned up and together we planted over 1400 saplings

The bundles of 5 types of indigenous saplings that we mixed to avoid that 'Scottish' tree plantation appearance

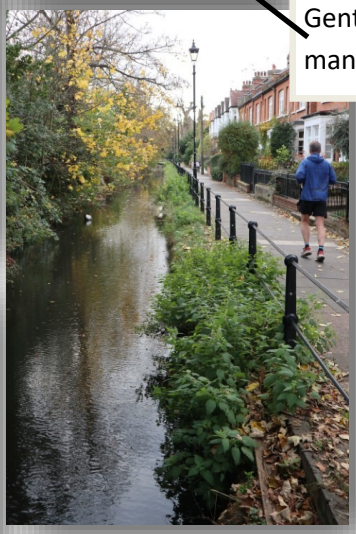
The saplings don't look very inspiring at this stage but they have a great future

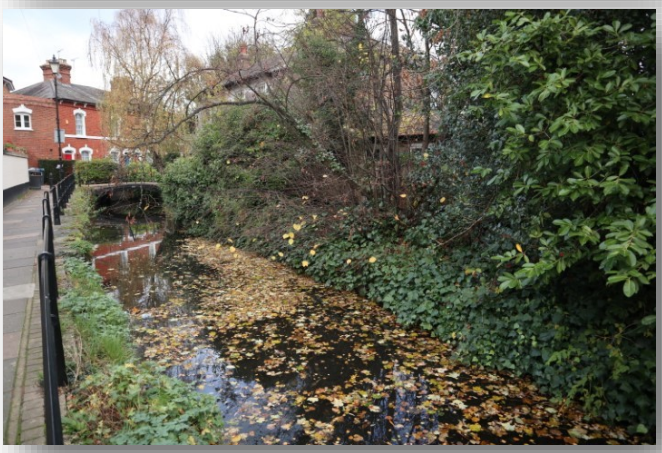
The lunch awning and the row of spades

Our autumn walk to the library included Gentleman's Row and The Town Park so excuse these familiar shots...but they are always so eye-catching

An ambitious project that was successful is the water meadow in the corner of The Town Park. In November it is fairly drab but still contrasts well with the open park and high rises now surrounding the park

This intri-guing large house is at the end of Gentle-man's Row

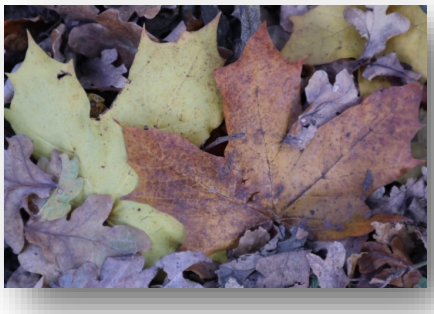


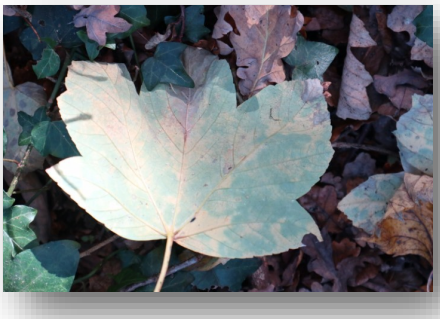


Autumn colours along River View on the New River

One of the two 'hidden-away' pubs

A peaceful setting in the heart of Enfield……other than the cars it hasn't changed much over the years





This delightful traditional house even has its own bridge over the New River

The other 'hidden-away' local pub

Life on the river. The cat lazily watching passers by, wonderful smell of wood smoke curling upwards from the wood burner, ivy and flowers around the boat. Water bottles ready for re-cycling……

The coot making its home in the tyre

Total tranquilly and away from the madding crowd

Looks so serene on the previous page doesn't it.

Maybe I'm cynical and reality is not always as it appears. The actual noise level at this mooring was off the scale. The four lane motorway crossed the water meadows at this point and the graffiti added to its charm...Maybe this actually is a comment on life. The grass often looks greener elsewhere but it is not always the case

This was a sad scene too.

We watched this lonely swan gently nudging it's dead mate without understanding why it got no reaction

The Waitrose that stood here (and was an ugly blot on the attractive scene) was demolished to make way for what new delights...sorry, my cynicism is showing again

Photo History

In 1968

The Gazebos on the River Lea at Ware

The largest group of Gazebos on a riverside anywhere in Britain

History

Gazebos or Dutch Summerhouses?

Leisure Activities

Artwork and Photography

Painting

Photography

Disrepair and Restoration

A Working River

Punting

Before

After

The Ware Society

Their origins can be traced back to their construction in the 18th and early 19th centuries, with a few dating from even earlier, in the late 1600s. Over time the gazebos became in need of repair, with some of them sadly not surviving to be seen today. In the 1830s there were 25 gazebos, but by 1980, only ten remained.

Fortunately, during the 1980s the East Herts District Council stepped in and, with additional funds provided by the Ware Society and others, they set about restoring the gazebos to their former glory.

Part of this really different walk took us past the gazebos on The River Lea. These are a fascinating reminder of a bygone age and it is a pity that many are in a state of disrepair. Ware town was very busy with horse drawn vehicles on bumpy roads and many of the shopkeepers built these gazebos overlooking the river at the end of their long gardens so they could escape the noise

Update on thoughts as at end November 2021

Very often these pages show my thoughts about family and my life but possibly to make it more relevant to future readers (if there are any people interested in my ramblings) will be to add some current topics 'hot off the press'.

Even that is an old fashioned term.

Today covid is again hitting the news , not just in the UK but worldwide with a strain that has mutated and just been discovered in South Africa,. The UK government came under a lot of fire with accusations that it acted too late in precautions taken-in the original pandemic. I personally feel that it was an unknown pending disaster and it is easy to be critical with hindsight. Possibly, here, I will give facts and my own comments otherwise this is all a bit sterile and anyone can just read the current news from all available archives. What my Photo History is aimed at is like Samuel Pepy's Diaries...a snapshot of a life..

Yesterday there was a shocking disaster where 27 illegal immigrants drowned in a sinking inflatable trying to get to the UK. Boris Johnson sent an open letter on Twitter to Macron (president of France) requesting more joint cooperation. I find this style of 'diplomacy' suspect but obviously I am of the age where this use of Social Media is alien. Trump used Twitter a lot and I felt he was a total idiot. However, seemingly as a result of this Tweet,

EMMANUEL Macron's government has pulled their invitation to Home Secretary Priti Patel of ministers in Europe, which was to discuss potential options. This came as a response to the Tweet. It was a gathering of European interior ministers for easing the ongoing migration crisis A source from the French interior ministry told Politico "We find the open letter from the British Prime Minister unacceptable… *So do I*

This confirms my feelings about politics..The lunatics are running the asylum

Space: there are (unknown to most people) thousands of satellites orbiting the earth now and there seems to be a great deal of big money invested in space exploration. From my limited grasp of the subject many satellites are used to enable phone and communication networks on earth. However spying on other counties is also a major use , where images can be constantly beamed back and their frequency even avoids the cloud cover problem. Deforestation areas are identified and presumable military build ups at borders. What also worries me is the amount of uncontrolled debris . It is like damaged car parts littering a motorway. A major accident waiting to happen. I hears a small report yesterday where a rocket has been sent up to deflect an asteroid. If it was destroyed the resultant debris would, in itself, pose massive risks. It is intended as an experiment with massive future implications. This very small deviation, if successful, could prevent a world disaster in the future. It is a world-wide undertaking and I applaud it. There must be some urgent world-wide legislation now covering space and also going further by determining who owns the rights to minerals and territory etc found in other galaxies. Because it sounds like science fiction now, it will become facts much sooner than we realise.

Technology : I have seen such an advancement in technology in my lifetime that it is not possible for me see what the future may hold for my descendants. I feel that many 'so-called' improvements' are really unnecessary. They seem to me to be changes for changes sake. and often when they fail and people revert to the original, well tested, versions they are happier. Reliance on IT is not all it's cracked up to be. Lynn still prefers a paper diary to my on line calendar. With an internet breakdown she carries on...maybe there's a lot of truth in that example. Well done Lynn

Society: What a big subject. Sometimes, we feel that as we are old we are not affected by some major changes. This is not true. I want to leave a decent world behind and many major changes are not for the common good. I will list some as they occur to me:

Building on green belt. This is a subject that I feel so strongly about and the obvious argument in its favour is that we need more housing. Yes, we do but there is still so many places to build it and the size of future generations make open space even more necessary. Enfield is surrounded by green fields and Lynn and I are doing our bit to ensure trees and paths will succeed us and the waterways and brooks will be unpolluted. Yesterday Lynn and I took a walk in Whitewebbs. The golf course adjacent has been closed as it was uneconomic and it has become a dog-walkers paradise. We walked around its perimeter and it is truly vast. The only downside was the constant roar from the M25 audible but not visible. This fantastic area must not revert to development. It is a superb green area. No, I am not a nimby..it is a legacy ...a gift from our generation to the next generation.. Friends say what can we do.? Nothing maybe on a national or world level but so much on a local level. Previous generations left us a whole legacy of wonderful parks and this is our equivalent legacy to the next generation. Nik who is a woodland co-ordinator has sent me a plan that I find so encouraging and I will copy it in this book.

..update continued

Aged: I feel that the aged are not treated with the same respect in the UK as in, say, Japan, Greece, India etc. We all become old and the learning and life skills that can be passed on from the elderly are considerable. The family relationship between the young and the old is very special and we are lucky enough to have cultivated a special family bond. Not through anything other than love and mutual respect and possibly that word is the word worth considering..'respect'

AI: Something that I feel is a fantastic look into the future that we are only glimpsing now. As machines can slowly be taught to build more and more complex machines we, as human's are taken out of the equations and this can be so frightening. A new generation of humans where leisure is the norm and machines undertake everyday functions. Not in my life time do I hear you say.

Youth: Like many others I am so sad to hear the number of knife crimes. Just yesterday I read this…

A youth worker described how he has been inundated with phone calls from "traumatised" children and teenagers who witnessed the fatal attack of 12-year-old Ava White. The schoolgirl was pronounced dead at last night having been assaulted in Liverpool City Centre at around 8.39pm, shortly after the Christmas lights switch on. Four boys - one aged 13, two aged 14 and one 15 - all from the Toxteth area, have been arrested on suspicion of murder.

We all say this is terrible, but it is almost so commonplace now that it is not even headline news. No easy answer is there. A society divided and from a viewpoint that is not at 'street level' I am in no position to judge. What do these kids lack? Sure, maybe the economic background can be blamed but I remember just post war when people had far less and crime was certainly less. Maybe it's exactly that, maybe seeing people with more, brings an envy and with it a hatred. Certainly drugs are fuelling street crime and county lines are involving more and more youngsters into this life of crime. I realise that with no perceptible family life street gangs simulate a family and gang leaders are the father-figure role models. I feel this analysis is not far fetched and maybe addressing family issues is something that we, as a society, should concentrate on. The old adage of " bring back youth clubs" is not so ridiculous. Certainly some areas of interest should be provided to counteract the mindless hanging about on estates and in shopping centres at night. Sport, youth schemes like outward bound are sniffed at but they are a real effort to offer alternatives. We have seen inner city kids taking to climbing, canoeing, circus skills etc and they had not even seen hills and rivers, climbing walls and trapeses prior to these schemes. Not impossible goals..just difficult to introduce. There are so many people out there to introduce these difficult schemes and they are the unknown unsung heroes and we should applaud them and more importantly we should finance them and make it possible

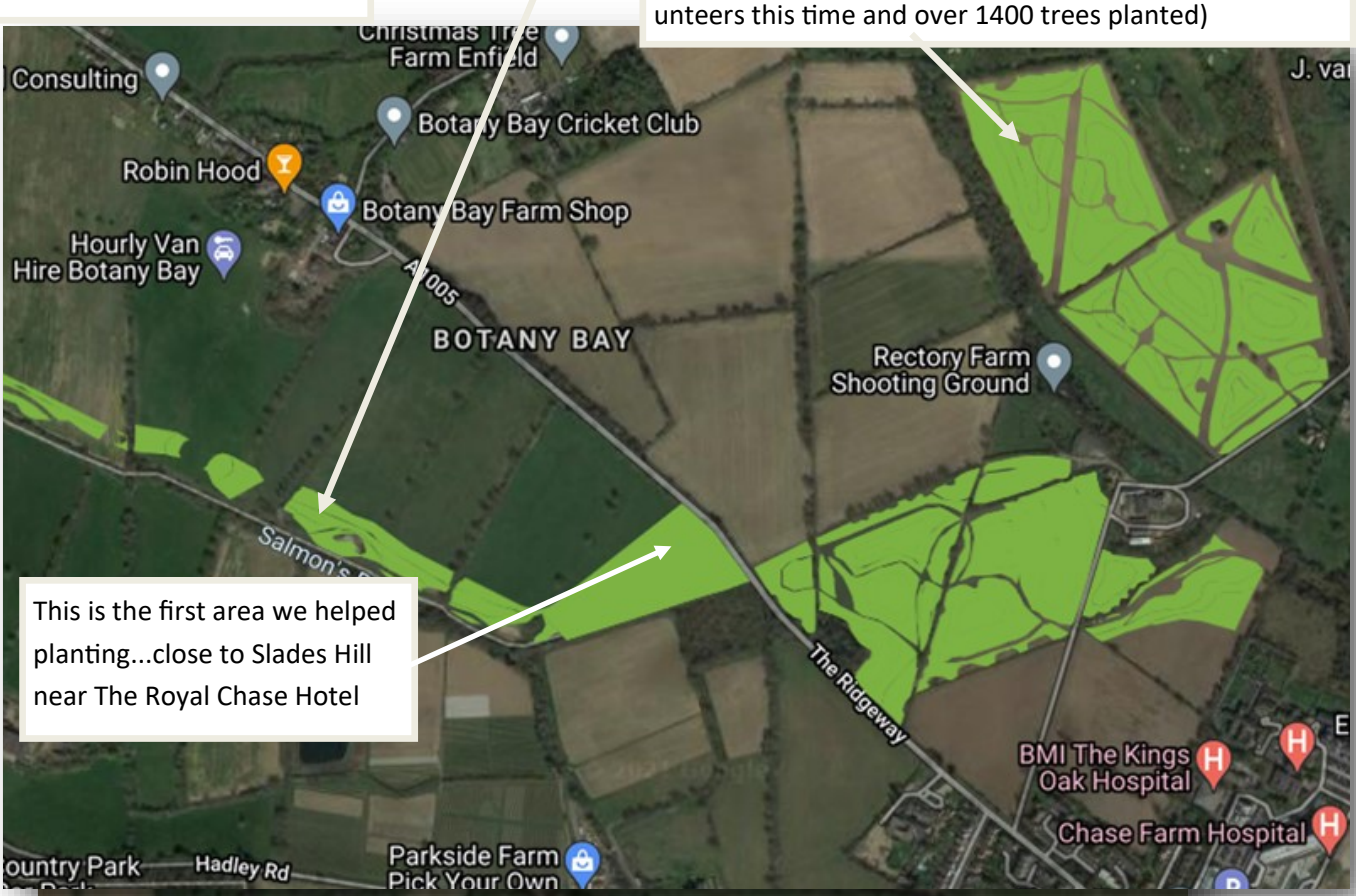
Well, enough said...i often think of ideas and my role in life and maybe if this stimulates a reader it will bring some valuable outcome from what otherwise is just volumes and volumes of egotistical rambling… I hope so

This is the overall area where tree planting and new ponds are planned… Actual plans...

This is the second area we helped planting and where we returned to reinstate posts that had been damaged by wind and animals etc

A more detailed close up #1

This is the 4th area we helped planting trees (over 50 volunteers this time and over 1400 trees planted)



This is the first area we helped planting...close to Slades Hill near The Royal Chase Hotel

This is the third area where we helped planting trees (opposite the obelisk on Ferny Hill)

A more detailed close up #2

We always find it so strange that when a tall old tree falls over, the roots are so shallow

This is all that remains of the original Chase Farm Hospital. It is known as the Clock Tower. It will be fascinating to compare it in the future with how it appears after it's 'reinvention'

Yes, I know I am a sucker for nostalgia, but I came across this old tin of wax floor polish ...totally unusable and dried out, but it was labelled 4/6p so how could I possibly throw it away??!!